



Board of Chosen Freeholders County of Burlington New Jersey

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November 13, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Submitted electronically

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Burlington County New Jersey Public Safety Communications Network and its members, I am writing to express support for Cyren Call Communications' proposal (FCC RM No. 11348) to build a nationwide, wireless broadband network for public safety. America's first responders and others directly involved with protecting our homeland deserve sufficient spectrum combined with innovative funding methods to access the most advanced wireless communications services and technology.

Burlington County Central Communications dispatches for 26 law enforcement agencies, 43 emergency medical service agencies and 78 fire companies. Our County has recently made a huge financial commitment to provide interoperability to all police, fire and EMS providers countywide.. While we have excellent interoperability in our county, that is not the case when itinerant vehicles enter our county or we leave it to provide mutual aid elsewhere. Getting sufficient radio spectrum to build a countywide public safety network sandwiched between New York and Philadelphia was a formidable task. There is no additional spectrum available in our coverage area and band to provide graphics and other data functions to our users. We must jump around to other bands which means adding other types of equipment and radios to our system. We just reached our goal of providing interoperability using one radio where we formerly had three in each vehicle and now we are looking down that road again as we have to go to other bands to get the required functionality. The Cyren

Call Communications proposal is the first one I have seen to offer Public Safety Communications through a public/private partnership that would provide a foothold to develop a nationwide common public safety band. We in the public safety communications arena would like to believe the FCC will have the foresight and fortitude to develop a common band that will enable us to have the same advantages the broadcast community has had for 70 years.

Our nation has a unique opportunity to use a contiguous, 30 MHz block of frequencies in the upper 700 MHz band to provide public safety an advanced, nationwide communications network that would be controlled by public safety and harness the economic benefits of a shared public/private partnership with commercial wireless operators. The key elements of Cyren Call's proposal include (1) reallocating the 30 MHz block of frequencies from the planned auction of 700 MHz spectrum to public safety; (2) licensing the 30 MHz of spectrum to a Public Safety Broadband Trust that would control and manage the spectrum, (3) designing a next-generation IP-based nationwide network with extensive terrestrial coverage and satellite capabilities – all built to public safety specifications, (4) using private capital to fund a public/private shared network, and (5) enabling commercial operators to use excess capacity on the network, but giving public safety priority access. This proposal is innovative and, for the first time, cohesively resolves the multitude of problems contributing to public safety's communications problems by joining public and private interests.

I urge the FCC Commissioners, Congressional Representatives and other decision-makers in Washington, D.C. to fulfill their obligation to act in the public interest. Time is of the essence and if action is not taken quickly, the frequencies will be auctioned in early 2008 for commercial purposes and this opportunity will be lost forever. Please prioritize public safety by approving Cyren Call's proposal and creating a Public Safety Broadband Trust.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Saiia, Director
Burlington County NJ
Department of Public Safety